

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 17, 2006

SENATE BILL

No. 1563

Introduced by Senator Escutia

February 23, 2006

An act to amend Section 60641 of, and to add Sections 78213.5 and 78213.7 to, the Education Code, relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1563, as amended, Escutia. Community colleges: Community College Early Assessment *Pilot Program*.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of postsecondary education in this state. Existing law establishes community college districts throughout the state, and authorizes those districts to provide instruction to students at community college campuses.

This bill would express legislative findings and declarations relating to, among other things, the rates at which students who enroll in community colleges as freshmen return for a second year of college. The bill would express legislative intent to enact legislation to establish a Community College Early Assessment *Pilot Program* for the purpose of providing high school pupils with an indicator of their readiness for college-level English and mathematics at the end of grade 11 and allowing high schools to work with pupils in grade 12 to elevate the skills of these pupils to a level expected of first-time community college freshman students.

The bill would establish the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program for the purpose of providing high school pupils with an indicator of their readiness for college-level English and mathematics

at the end of grade 11 and allowing high schools to work with pupils in grade 12 to elevate their skills to a level expected of first-time community college freshman students. The bill would require the program to be administered by the California Partnership for Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS), which the bill would establish.

The bill would establish Cal-PASS as an independent research body whose work is aimed at improving student transition from one educational segment to the next and ensuring that students are prepared to succeed at each level of education. The bill would require the board of governors to oversee the efforts of Cal-PASS through annual evaluations of the finances, expenditures, and activities of Cal-PASS.

The bill would provide that up to 25 community colleges, along with their feeder high schools, shall be eligible to participate in the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program. The bill would require Cal-PASS to select the participating community colleges and high schools from institutions applying to the program and agreeing to meet the requirements established for participation in the program. The bill would require Cal-PASS to make these selections in accordance with procedures and criteria it develops and adopts. The bill would specify requirements to be met by participating community colleges and high schools.

The bill would require Cal-PASS to establish and oversee the work of 6 regional standards councils and a statewide standards council. The bill would specify the duties and responsibilities of these standards councils.

The bill would require Cal-PASS, to the extent that funding is provided specifically for this purpose in the annual budget act or another statute, to provide a stipend to each participating community college and high school. The bill would express the intent of the Legislature that this stipend, in conjunction with base funding received by the participating institutions, shall be adequate to cover all costs incurred by those institutions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:

1 (1) In California and throughout the nation, an increasing
2 number of jobs require some education beyond high school to
3 meet the challenges of a growing, knowledge-based global
4 economy. Of the students who seek a postsecondary education in
5 California, 62 percent attend a community college. Current data
6 show that ~~many of these students do not succeed.~~

7 ~~(2) Completion rates in the California Community Colleges~~
8 ~~are some of the lowest in the country. In 2002, only 48 percent of~~
9 ~~community college freshmen returned for a second year of~~
10 ~~college, compared to the national average of 55 percent.~~

11 ~~(3) More than 50 percent of incoming students of the~~
12 ~~California Community Colleges require remediation or basic~~
13 ~~skills development in order to complete college level work. This~~
14 ~~is a critical factor determining student success in achieving~~
15 ~~educational objectives.~~

16 ~~(4) A lack of consistent standards, curriculum, and~~
17 ~~assessments between high schools and community colleges~~
18 ~~contributes to these problems. It is estimated that there are 495~~
19 ~~English, mathematics, and English as a Second Language~~
20 ~~placement examinations across California's 109 community~~
21 ~~colleges. most of these students do not complete a degree,~~
22 ~~certificate, or transfer program.~~

23 *(2) Retention rates are poor: in 2002, only 48 percent of*
24 *community college freshmen returned for a second year of*
25 *college.*

26 *(3) Completion rates in the California Community Colleges*
27 *are fourth from the bottom in the country as measured by the*
28 *National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education.*

29 *(4) More than 50 percent of incoming students of the*
30 *California Community Colleges require remediation or basic*
31 *skills development in order to complete college level work. This*
32 *is a critical factor determining student success in achieving*
33 *educational objectives.*

34 *(5) A lack of consistent standards, curriculum, and*
35 *assessments between high schools and community colleges*
36 *contributes to these problems. It is estimated that there are 495*
37 *English, mathematics, and English as a second language*
38 *placement examinations across California's 109 community*
39 *colleges. Each community college determines its own definition*
40 *of "college readiness" despite the mission of the California*

1 *Community Colleges to prepare students to transfer to the two*
2 *four-year universities that have statewide standards for college*
3 *readiness.*

4 *(6) Early assessment is a diagnostic tool and a fundamental*
5 *means for improving student preparation for, and success in,*
6 *community college. Early assessment must be part of a larger set*
7 *of aligned activities, so students may fully benefit from every step*
8 *in their educational career.*

9 (b) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to enact
10 legislation to establish a Community College Early Assessment
11 Pilot Program for the purpose of providing high school pupils
12 with an indicator of their readiness for college-level English and
13 mathematics at the end of grade 11 and allowing high schools to
14 work with pupils in grade 12 to elevate the skills of these pupils
15 to a level expected of first-time community college freshman
16 students.

17 *(c) It is also the intent of the Legislature that this program help*
18 *pupils to begin to earn English and mathematics college credit*
19 *immediately upon enrollment in a community college.*

20 SEC. 2. Section 60641 of the Education Code is amended to
21 read:

22 60641. (a) The department shall ensure that school districts
23 comply with each of the following requirements:

24 (1) The achievement test designated pursuant to Section 60642
25 and the standards-based achievement test provided for in Section
26 60642.5 are scheduled to be administered to all pupils during the
27 period prescribed in subdivision (b) of Section 60640.

28 (2) The individual results of each pupil test administered
29 pursuant to Section 60640 shall be reported, in writing, to the
30 pupil's parent or guardian. The written report shall include a
31 clear explanation of the purpose of the test, the pupil's score, and
32 its intended use by the school district. This subdivision does not
33 require teachers or other school district personnel to prepare
34 individualized explanations of each pupil's test score.

35 (3) (A) The individual results of each pupil test administered
36 pursuant to Section 60640 shall also be reported to the pupil's
37 school and teachers. The school district shall include the pupil's
38 test results in his or her pupil records. However, except as
39 provided in this section, individual pupil test results may only be
40 released with the permission of either the pupil's parent or

guardian if the pupil is a minor, or the pupil if the pupil has reached the age of majority or is emancipated.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a pupil or his or her parent or guardian may authorize the release of individual pupil results to a postsecondary educational institution for the purpose of credit, placement, or admission.

(4) The districtwide, school-level, and grade-level results of the STAR Program in each of the grades designated pursuant to Section 60640, but not the score or relative position of any individually ascertainable pupil, shall be reported to the governing board of the school district at a regularly scheduled meeting, and the countywide, school-level, and grade-level results for classes and programs under the jurisdiction of the county office of education shall be similarly reported to the county board of education at a regularly scheduled meeting.

(b) The publisher designated pursuant to Section 60642 and the publisher of the standards-based achievement tests provided for in Section 60642.5 shall make the individual pupil, grade, school, school district, and state results available to the department pursuant to paragraph (9) of subdivision (a) of Section 60643 by August 8 of each year in which the achievement test is administered for those schools for which the last day of test administration, including makeup days, is on or before June 25. The department shall make the grade, school, school district, and state results available on the Internet by August 15 of each year in which the achievement test is administered for those schools for which the last day of test administration, including makeup days, is on or before June 25.

(c) The department shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the results of the test for all pupils who take the test by June 25 are made available on the Internet by August 15, as set forth in subdivision (b).

(d) The department shall ensure that a California Standards Test that is augmented for the purpose of determining credit, placement, *assessment of college readiness*, or admission of a pupil in a postsecondary educational institution inform a pupil in grade 11 that he or she may request that the results from that assessment be released to a postsecondary educational institution.

SEC. 3. Section 78213.5 is added to the Education Code, to read:

78213.5. *The Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program is hereby established for the purpose of providing high school pupils with an indicator of their readiness for college-level English and mathematics at the end of grade 11 and allowing high schools to work with pupils in grade 12 to elevate their skills to a level expected of first-time community college freshman students. In order to provide high school pupils with this indicator, community colleges participating in the program shall use, but not necessarily be limited to, test results released to them pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 60641. The program shall be administered by the California Partnership for Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS) established by Section 78213.7.*

SEC. 4. Section 78213.7 is added to the Education Code, to read:

78213.7. (a) (1) The California Partnership for Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS) is hereby established as an independent research body whose work is aimed at improving student transition from one educational segment to the next and ensuring that students are prepared to succeed at each level of education. The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges shall oversee the efforts of Cal-PASS through annual evaluations of the finances, expenditures, and activities of Cal-PASS. In order to help facilitate these evaluations, the Director of Cal-PASS shall submit all of the following in a report to the board of governors by April 1 of each year:

(A) An accounting of all funding for Cal-PASS in the current fiscal year.

(B) A description of major Cal-PASS activities performed in the current fiscal year.

(C) A listing of all institutions that are participating in the Cal-PASS program through memoranda of understanding or other formal agreements.

(2) Annually, by May 1, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall forward this report to the Legislature and the Department of Finance, as well as the assessment of the board of governors of the effectiveness of Cal-PASS and any recommendations for future changes to the program's activities, mission, and funding.

1 (3) *As used in this section, “entry associate level” means the*
2 *content knowledge that a graduating high school pupil is*
3 *expected to know to succeed upon entering a community college*
4 *associate level course for credit in English or mathematics. This*
5 *content knowledge is based on California’s adopted academic*
6 *content standards in English-Language Arts and mathematics.*

7 (b) *Up to 25 community colleges, along with their feeder high*
8 *schools, shall be eligible to participate in the Community College*
9 *Early Assessment Pilot Program. Cal-PASS shall select the*
10 *participating community colleges and high schools from*
11 *institutions applying to the program and agreeing to meet the*
12 *requirements established for participation in the program.*
13 *Cal-PASS shall make these selections in accordance with*
14 *procedures and criteria it develops and adopts. At a minimum,*
15 *the following requirements shall be met by participating*
16 *community colleges and high schools:*

17 (1) *Participating community colleges shall agree to designate*
18 *the appropriate faculty to participate in the regional and*
19 *statewide intersegmental standards council and shall have the*
20 *full participation of their respective feeder high schools.*

21 (2) *Participating high schools shall agree to designate the*
22 *appropriate teachers to participate in the regional and statewide*
23 *intersegmental standards council and shall have the full*
24 *participation of their respective community colleges.*

25 (3) *Participating community colleges shall agree to use entry*
26 *associate level English and mathematics standards adopted by*
27 *the statewide standards council as the basis on which to assess*
28 *community college readiness.*

29 (4) *Participating community colleges shall agree to align*
30 *entry associate level English and mathematics courses to*
31 *appropriate high school English and mathematics curriculum.*
32 *Participating high schools and community colleges shall work*
33 *together to develop and implement appropriate grade 12*
34 *curriculum.*

35 (5) *Participating high schools shall advise students of the*
36 *availability of courses being offered that are designed to increase*
37 *college-readiness skills.*

38 (6) *Participating community colleges shall assign college*
39 *outreach advisors to participating feeder high schools to assist*
40 *students in making decisions that increase their*

1 college-readiness skills and increase the likelihood of pursuing a
2 postsecondary education.

3 (c) Cal-PASS shall establish and oversee six regional
4 standards councils, three to be focused on developing English
5 standards and three to be focused on developing mathematics
6 standards. The regional standards councils shall be composed of
7 high school, community college, and California State University
8 faculty. Each regional council shall develop recommendations
9 for community college standards for either entry associate level
10 English or entry associate level mathematics.

11 (d) Cal-PASS shall establish and oversee the work of a
12 statewide standards council composed of two representatives
13 from each regional standards council. In consultation with the
14 Community College Academic Senate, the statewide standards
15 council shall consider the recommendations of each regional
16 standards council and adopt one common set of standards for
17 entry collegiate level English and one common set of standards
18 for entry collegiate level mathematics.

19 (e) Cal-PASS, through the work of the statewide standards
20 council, shall accomplish both of the following:

21 (1) Adopt entry associate level English and entry associate
22 level mathematics standards that shall go into effect on January
23 1, 2008.

24 (2) Use these standards to evaluate alignment with test items
25 pursuant to Section 60641 and to determine whether
26 augmentation of the California Standards Test (CST) is needed to
27 meet Community College EAP standards. The standards council
28 shall adopt the CST or an augmented version of the CST as the
29 common test pupils are required to take if they choose to
30 participate in the Community College EAP program.

31 (f) Cal-PASS, through the work of the statewide standards
32 council, regional standards councils, and participating
33 institutions of higher education, shall facilitate the development
34 and implementation of all of the following:

35 (1) Standards-based precollegiate-level coursework. Upon the
36 adoption of entry associate level English and mathematics
37 standards, participating community colleges shall map their
38 precollegiate level courses in English and mathematics to
39 entry-collegiate-level courses.

1 (2) *Staff development activities for elementary and secondary*
2 *teachers and community college faculty, in accordance with all*
3 *of the following:*

4 (A) *Cal-PASS shall, in cooperation with participating high*
5 *schools and community colleges, collect and analyze the results*
6 *of the California Standards Test or the augmented California*
7 *Standards Test, or both, for the purpose of guiding the*
8 *development of curriculum to improve student success in*
9 *postsecondary education.*

10 (B) *The regional standards council shall create professional*
11 *development opportunities to train high school teachers in*
12 *developing curriculum aligned to the adopted entry associate*
13 *level standards.*

14 (C) *Participating community college districts shall work with*
15 *campuses of the California State University that train elementary*
16 *and secondary teachers to introduce aligned curriculum in the*
17 *pre-certification training programs.*

18 (3) *A system for notifying pupils of their grade 11 test results*
19 *and apprise them of senior-year academic enrichment*
20 *opportunities. This system shall ensure that students receive*
21 *notification regarding the pupil's community college readiness*
22 *for entry collegiate-level English and mathematics.*

23 (g) *To the extent that funding is provided specifically for this*
24 *purpose in the annual budget act or another statute, Cal-PASS*
25 *shall provide a stipend to each participating community college*
26 *and high school. It is the intent of the Legislature that this*
27 *stipend, in conjunction with base funding received by the*
28 *participating institutions, shall be adequate to cover all costs*
29 *incurred by those institutions.*